

# A Black Curriculum Called Vital

By ROGER A. GRIBBLE  
(Of The State Journal Staff)

A separate black university curriculum is a necessity, a University of Wisconsin black nationalist student argued here Tuesday, if black people are to acquire their own culture to equip them to "intermingle."

What's more, said Kuelewa Furaaha, "Until black people develop themselves, they can do nothing for humanity. We must get ourselves together."

FURAHA'S remarks came during a workshop scheduled as part of a six-day University-sponsored conference on "The Black Revolution."

Furaaha, a sophomore from Suffolk, Va., was moderator of the session. He acknowledged at the outset that as a black nationalist and member of "an organized, yet underground organization," he would interject his own views. He kept his word.

HE TOLD white participants in the session that "You have warped our minds with mental genocide. When I walk down the street, I don't know where I've been, where I'm at, or where I'm going. I'm dead — a walking zombie. That's what you have done to the black people."

Furaaha was chairman of the Student Black Curriculum Committee of the Black People's Alliance (BPA) here which presented a list of demands to administrators before the Christmas holidays, among them a demand for more black courses.

"The BPA is the only student organization administrators and deans will talk to and negotiate with," he contended.



STUDENT MILITANT KUELEWA FURAHA  
*'I'm dead—a walking zombie'*

State Journal Photo

"WE HAVEN'T been like SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) or one of the groups with the cowboy hats and Indian costumes that get their heads beat for glory and publicity," Furaaha added. "We've presented constructive demands, and this is why they (administrators) have sat and negotiated with us."

Furaaha also held to a doctrine of "rigid exclusiveness" involving separate black studies. Whites should be excluded, he said, because they would tend to

"dilute" the benefits of such courses to black students.

"Upliftment of identity is involved," he declared. "This is the object of a black curriculum."

AN UNIDENTIFIED white participant asked why a white student should not be permitted to attend a black course "so he can get an understanding of how you feel and what you desire."

"I don't believe you people, with your power structure,

would be that handicapped if excluded from this," Furaaha shot back. "You can learn in many other ways, like going to a black bookshop."

JOSEPH HUTCHISON, project director of University Extension education programs, disagreed with Furaaha's approach. "I believe a university has a concern for knowledge and truth," he said, "and every individual should have an opportunity for it."

"Knowledge and truth doesn't belong to any one specific group," Hutchison added. "I do not see why there needs to be specific courses for specific types of people. We're interested in improving civilization, and that involves all men."

Furaaha snapped back, "I'm saying the educational system in this country is warped. Humanity in this country is at a downpour of zero."

ANOTHER BLACK participant, James Scales, said, "White people have always had meetings about black people, and now they get upset about black people having their own meetings," he said.

Hutchinson agreed that there are shortcomings in educational systems, but contended that "Truth is common knowledge that belongs to all people."

STEPHEN UDVARI, another Extension specialist, said he could agree with motives for a separate black curriculum, but asked, "Why have it here?"

"Because we're taxpaying cit-

izens, and you had it before we did," was the angry reply by Mrs. Flora Seefeldt, a Negro member of the UW-Milwaukee Human Relations Department.

James Rosser, a Southern Illinois University black graduate student, related efforts there by a group of 15 black students to draft a black studies program after a confrontation with the administration.

"They're allowing us the flexibility to do our thing," he explained. "We're doing some creative, constructive things. There's a problem, though, because white professors don't want to buy this thing of a cat off the corner being involved in the teaching."

FURAHA CAUTIONED against Northern universities hiring all of the black professors away from Southern campuses "and bringing them here to teach the whites, and all the time there's cats who learned from the school of life and can educate."

The conference is being financed by the University itself and several campus organizations.

ITALIAN AUTOS INCREASE  
TURIN, Italy — Production of cars, trucks, and buses in Italy hit a record high of 1.6 million during 1968, reports the Italian Assn. of Car Manufacturers. That was 121,000 more than the previous year. Exports of Italian motor vehicles jumped 37 per cent over 1967.